

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 22, 1890.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SAWYER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 3552.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3552) granting a pension to Mrs. Jane Hinsdale, have examined the same and report:

A bill was introduced in the House in the Fiftieth Congress, and a favorable report was made thereon; but for some reason, having nothing to do with the merits of the case, it was not passed. That report is adopted by the committee, and is as follows:

The petitioner, Jane Hinsdale, served as a nurse for the Union forces in the vicinity of Washington from the beginning to the end of the war. Her services were of a very high order. She was taken prisoner at Manassas Junction and almost denuded herself of her underclothing to make bandages for the wounded Union soldiers in the barn used as hospital and prison by the Confederates. She suffered great hardships, and is now an old woman in reduced circumstances. Her petition is substantiated by officers and soldiers who received her care. We append it in full as a remarkable statement worthy of preservation, and submit the accompanying bill for her relief, with a recommendation that it do pass.

Petition of Mrs. Jane Hinsdale, of Detroit, Mich., for a remuneration in consideration of her being of valuable service to the Union Army during the late war, for three years and six weeks.

STATEMENT OF MRS. JANE HINSDALE.

In the first part of the war, in the year 1861, my husband, Hiram H. Hinsdale, enlisted in Company D, Second Michigan Infantry. I went with the regiment from Detroit, Mich., to Grovier's Rest, where the regiment encamped. I there acted as matron and laundress for the regiment. The regiment left there for Bull Run. After they had gone I followed alone. I got through the lines by the aid of the Connecticut mail, and got in just as the division was starting for the Blue Ridge. I followed after that division, and during the engagement at the Blue Ridge I was constantly on hand doing what I could for the wounded and dying. I had a small stock of medicine with me, which I used in administering to the wounded and those who had fallen by the roadside from sunstroke. I even carried water in my shoe to them. I retreated with the regiment to Germantown; after staying there a few hours I started back to the Blue Ridge to try to find my husband, but got lost in the woods, where I remained all night; in the morning I made my way back to Germantown. I found the field deserted, but found plenty of guns, blankets, etc., which I collected and gave to scattering Union soldiers from different regiments, who had been in the battle of Bull Run and had lost their guns, etc. At that time I provided guns and blankets for about three hundred or four hundred soldiers who were on their way to Washington. I staid on the field at Germantown alone and threw into the brook there what ammunition I could collect until I was taken prisoner by the Black Horse Cavalry. They asked me where our troops had gone; I told them in an entire opposite direction to which they had actually gone; when they asked me where I had left the

troops the night before, I said, pointing to a hill. They asked me what they did there. I told them they built a bonfire, hoisted the American flag, and gave three cheers for the Union. I told them that they had been reinforced with 30,000 men, and that 40,000 more would be there by 12 o'clock noon. My object was to protect the 300 or 400 soldiers that had passed me that morning. They then consulted together a little apart from me, and finally left two of the Black Horse Cavalry to take me a prisoner to Centreville. When we got there the South Carolina regiment was drawn up in a line of battle. They kept me there until 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and then took me to Manassas Junction. The rebel countersign was out there; they wanted to put me into the guard house; I told them I never would go there; I would rather be shot on the spot. The head officer then said I was crazy, and for them to put me into a barn, which contained thirty or forty of our Union soldiers. They were there from Maine, Fourteenth Brooklyn, and other different regiments. I cared for the wounded in that barn all night; I even tore up the underclothes I had on into bandages and wrapped around their wounds. I called for the Southern corporal in the morning and got a pass from General Beauregard to Washington. I staid at Manassas Junction for about four days, helping Dr. Fisher, the Southern doctor from Georgia, to administer to the wants of the wounded of both the Northern and Southern armies, and carrying meals to our own soldiers who were confined in the barn.

Dr. Taylor, of the Sixth New Jersey Regiment, who was a prisoner in the barn, told me I must go to Washington, as I was the only person who had a pass from General Beauregard, and that I could take valuable information to General Mansfield in Washington, regarding the rebel movements at Manassas Junction. Dr. Taylor gave me some papers which I were to take to General Mansfield, and I started for Washington. I walked that day to Centreville, most of the way barefooted, as I had used my stockings for the Union prisoners, and my feet were so sore and swollen that I could not get my shoes on. I had nothing on me but an old blood-stained skirt; no wonder the rebels thought I was crazy. I slept on the floor in a shanty at Centreville that night, and early next morning started on my way to Washington. I got lost in the woods, and in a ravine were a company of rebel soldiers, who stopped me and demanded who I was. I showed them General Beauregard's pass, and their colonel, Washington, had me put in an ambulance and taken a few miles from them. I was then in a worse way than I was before, but finally succeeded, after great difficulty, in finding my way to Colonel Christian's guards, about 3 miles from Fort Ellsworth. They stopped me and I showed them Beauregard's pass; they said I could not pass on his pass. I then asked them if they were Lincoln's men, and they said they were, and I told them to tell their commander that I was from Manassas Junction, and that I had to get to Washington that night. They brought their lieutenant, and I took him aside and showed him one of the papers Dr. Taylor had given me for General Mansfield. He said, laughing, you are not so crazy as they would have you to be; he walked back with me for nearly a quarter of a mile in company with a guard. As we were on our way to Colonel Christian's we met two men on horseback coming towards us. I told the lieutenant I thought I recognized them as two of the Black Horse Cavalry who had taken me prisoner, but to be sure of it I would, as they got up to us, put up my two hands, which I did, and he stopped them. He went back with them, and the guard and I went on. We had not gotten very far before the two men on horseback came riding back. I told the guard to walk back and have his gun pointed towards them, for they would certainly have killed me had they gotten half a chance. They finally rode off into the woods, and we went on our way to Colonel Christian's quarters. I showed the colonel some of the papers I had for General Mansfield. Soon as he read the papers he called the quartermaster of the Twenty-sixth New York and sent him with me to see General Mansfield, and he told the quartermaster not to allow me to speak to any person until I had seen General Mansfield. When we got to Washington we could not find the general, so we went to the hotel to wait for him. At the hotel people objected to me coming inside because of the condition I was in. I had to bear all manner of insults. The quartermaster told them I must stay there, as I had business of importance with General Mansfield. We waited up at the hotel until nearly 3 o'clock in the morning before General Mansfield came in. I then delivered the papers to him, and gave him all the information I could as to affairs at Manassas Junction. I told him I wanted to go to my home in Michigan, and he said I could not go, as I was just such a person as they wanted, and that I had done a great deal of good for the Union cause, and that for me to stay and he would see that I was well rewarded, and that any favor I should ask would be granted.

The quartermaster then took me to the headquarters of a captain of one of the New York regiments, and he gave me a meal and my bed. The next morning in going along the streets I was so tired that I sat on the steps of a printing-office, when a soldier and a reporter of a newspaper happened to see me. The reporter asked the soldier if he knew me. He said "Yes," and that he had seen me on the battle-field, and I had

done more good than ten men. He told me of my husband being alive and that he was at Arlington Heights.

I went from Washington to Arlington Heights and saw my husband. I acted as matron and nurse there to the sick soldiers until the regiment went away.

I staid on the field at Camp Michigan for four days after it was deserted, taking care of the tents, etc., and preventing farmers from carrying away things.

Drs. Coffenter and Teal, of the Twenty-sixth New York, came there and told me to go down to General Heintzleman's headquarters and fit it up for a hospital. The doctors sent down to me what tents, blankets, clothing, etc., I had saved at the camp.

After the hospital was fitted up the sick of the Twenty-sixth New York came there. I acted as nurse for them for about six weeks or two months. They were ordered away and the Ninety-fourth New York came with about 100 sick. I acted as nurse for them. I can't remember exactly how long they staid. After they left the One hundred and first New York came. I acted as nurse for them until they left, and then came Colonel Wells's regiment from Massachusetts. I was nurse for their sick. The Third Army Corps were there, too, with about 300 or 400 sick. I helped to attend them, as well as other different regiments from the North.

I continued acting as nurse, and doing all I possibly could do there for the sick and wounded of the different regiments, both in the hospital and in the different camps, until the close of the war.

her
JANE X HINSDALE.
mark.

Witness:

SYLVESTER LARNED.
CHAS. P. LARNED.

Her statements are corroborated by Edward F. Taylor, surgeon First Division, Eighth Corps, Army of the Potomac; Colonel Wessells, late colonel Nineteenth Connecticut Volunteers, and John V. Ruchle, jr., late captain Company K, Second Michigan Volunteers.

The bill is reported favorably, with a recommendation that it do pass.

